



# Randallstown

**Po Box 731 Randallstown, MD 21133**

February 28, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

*RE: SUPPORT SB 0763-Collection and Publication of Criminal Case and  
Prosecutorial Information.*

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

May it be known the mission of the Randallstown NAACP is to secure equal rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and wellbeing of all persons in Baltimore County and the State of Maryland.

As the most powerful – and perhaps least understood – actors in the criminal legal system, prosecutors have an incredible impact on both individual criminal cases and the criminal legal system at large.

Prosecutors make decisions that affect the lives of millions of people every day. They possess formidable powers to carry out justice. They decide whom to prosecute, what to charge, whether to recommend freedom or incarceration before trial, whether to bargain

for a plea and its conditions, and whether to dismiss a case altogether. They hold this authority throughout the life of a criminal case, giving them extraordinary power from arrest through trial, conviction and sentencing, as well as during appeals.

Despite growing calls for reform, information about how prosecutors make decisions remains largely hidden from public view. This lack of data collection has long been the norm among prosecutors' offices for a variety of reasons. *First, there are almost no legal requirements that they do so. Laws rarely mandate the recording or public disclosure of substantive prosecutorial data, nor do they require prosecutors' offices to make their policies public.*

SB 0785 will help prosecutors manage their offices efficiently and measure progress toward goals. This reporting of data will increase transparency about prosecutorial decision making, the constraints prosecutors navigate, and how their decisions link to broader justice and public safety outcomes. **The Randallstown Branch of the NAACP urges a favorable report from the committee on SB 0763.**

*yours,*

R. Coleman  
President, Randallstown NAACP  
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